

# More than Orange Jumpsuits

Conservation crews make a positive difference in communities



*By Leah Sandburg, Office Technician, Lassen-Modoc Unit*

CAL FIRE's Conservation Crews improve the community by working on different projects such as, brushing along roadsides, developing fuel breaks, building fences, maintaining trails at state parks and providing fire hazard reduction around schools.

Conservation Crews can perform project work for federal, state and local government agencies. The location of the camp influences which agencies the camp works for.

Intermountain Camp is fortunate to be surrounded by national forests, state parks, wildlife refuges, state highways and several small cemeteries, schools and fire districts.

The camp has been a part of the community for over 45 years and has established itself as a valuable resource.

The camp holds a stakeholder meeting every other year and invites local government agencies to attend so they can learn about the Camp Program and what it has to offer.

Intermountain Camp also sends out an annual letter which summarizes the year's accomplishments in both conservation work and emergency response.

Maintaining a close relationship with other agencies and letting them know what conservation crews have to offer allows the camp to make a difference in the community.

Intermountain Crew 3 recently worked one of those projects where the crew felt especially proud of their efforts. Barbara Joiner, a member of the Lookout Cemetery District, a project sponsor and two other members approached Intermountain Conservation Camp about helping them revitalize their cemetery. Many of the headstones had settled into the earth or were leaning precariously.

One section of the cemetery needed special attention. "We had for some time wondered just how we were going to take on the undeveloped western portion of the cemetery which had become so overgrown," Joiner continued, "We could never have achieved what the crew accomplished on our own. Their service means a great deal to our community."

Captain Todd Garber supervised Intermountain Crew 3, who leveled the headstones, trimmed trees and shrubs, and removed vegetation in the undeveloped section of the cemetery.

The project sponsors were appreciative of the work. Joiner said, "We are especially thankful for the caring expressed by so many of the men in raising and improving some of the historical tombstones. It really feels good to know that others believe we should continue to respect these memorials as many of these families have long since passed on."

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